

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER FEBRUARY 23, 2004

DELIVERED BY

THE HONORABLE MAYOR CARL B. HUTCHERSON, JR.

THE HONORABLE VICE MAYOR BERTRAM F. DODSON, JR.





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TO THE MEMBERS OF LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL AND THE CITIZENS OF LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA



The State of the City Address february 23, 2004

To the honorable members of City Council, City Manager Payne, Deputy City Manager Svrcek, members of the City administration, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen, good evening. Welcome to the annual State of the City Address.

The Vice Mayor and I are honored to have you join us tonight as we take this opportunity to speak with you about this city we are all blessed to call our home.

Tonight is a bittersweet moment for those of us on City Council. Two of our colleagues have chosen not to run for another term on City Council. They have given a total of 15 years of committed service to the citizens of Lynchburg. We are proud to call them colleagues and friends.

To Council members Ed Barksdale and Robert Garber, we offer our heartfelt thanks and appreciation. Bear with me as I borrow a line from my other vocation and say to you, "Well done thou good and faithful servants..." Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in thanking these two men for their service to this City and to City Council.

I wish to also welcome our families tonight. We thank them for being supportive of our desire to serve the citizens of Lynchburg. Please won't you stand?

Public service comes in many forms. Last year we were pleased to welcome the families of six City employees that left their families and jobs behind to answer their nation's call to service. Our prayers were with them and we are happy to say that they have returned home safely. They are among our honored guests tonight. Ladies and gentlemen join me in welcoming Michael B. Davis, John Zeh, Bryant Nowlin, Michael Sprouse, Jason Stevens, and Bryan Williams.

In previous years the State of the City address has been described by some as a speech which makes us feel good. We will talk about those things that we can all feel good about tonight.

I am soberly reminded of the Charles Dickens' book, "Tale of Two Cities." The classic story begins, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." That might be a pretty

dramatic way of describing our current situation. We certainly aren't in the midst of a revolution as was the case for Dickens' characters, however, the phrase seems appropriate. My fellow citizens there are difficult days ahead, sacrifices to be made and questions to be answered.

On March 4, City Manager Payne will submit to City Council his budget for fiscal year 2005, and we are aware of the fact that we face a budget gap of unprecedented proportions.

Why are we in this current economic predicament? I wish I could give you a simple answer tonight but there are no simple answers. I can tell you that almost every city in Virginia has found themselves in a similar predicament. I suppose there is some comfort to be had in the knowledge that we are not alone.

We also do not live in a vacuum. The economy of our city is affected by many things. In the February issue of Governing magazine, columnist Alan Greenblatt, writes "A federal deficit rapidly approaching half a trillion dollars is bad news for states and localities." We in local government couldn't agree more. It is bad news in the form of a growing number of unfunded mandates and a dwindling amount of federal grants and resources. Bad news in the form of a national unemployment rate of over 5%, steady increases in manufacturing jobs heading overseas and, while some will certainly argue about whether or not our national economy is in a recession, we can say it is definitely in a slump.

What happens, or I should say, what does not happen, on the state level has a direct impact on us. You have heard us say this before ladies and gentlemen, but tax restructuring in Virginia is an idea whose time has come. If we are to save our cities, the members of the General Assembly must step up with courage and determination to work seriously on restructuring a tax system that continues to place our cities at risk.

Governor Mark Warner has proposed important reforms that would go a long way in rectifying the current inequities in our tax system. But tax restructuring is not and should not be a partisan issue. Republican State Senator John Chichester of Stafford, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee has put forth an even more favorable plan that is aimed at preserving the vitality of the Commonwealth and of its cities.

In an eloquent speech to the members of the General Assembly he asked, "...Are there inequities in the tax system? Are there unintended consequences of our tax policies? Does our tax system reflect our modern economy? Is there room for reevaluation? And, is the future of the Virginia that we know and love worth the discussion?" The answer to each question is a resounding yes!

Vice Mayor Dodson and Councilmember Julian Adams along with other members of City Council have been outspoken about the inequities of the State tax system and unfunded mandates, and now, even fiscal conservatives like Republican Senator John Warner and former U.S. Senator Harry Byrd have added their voices to those who understand that this is the time for action.

The State is woefully behind in fulfilling its responsibilities. When we look at educational funding alone, we see that Virginia ranks 44th in the nation in school funding. On average, local governments pick up 45 percent of the cost for providing minimum school standards. If the State honored its commitment, it should increase education funding by \$1.2 billion over the next two years just to meet the minimum state standards.

The time has come to stop the studies and begin to take action to rectify the problem of inequity in the tax structure system. The State must begin to fulfill its obligations to Lynchburg and other cities throughout the Commonwealth. We can no longer take on the heavy financial burden passed down to us by the State.

How are we doing on a local level? Not too surprisingly we have seen relatively flat growth in our sales tax revenue. As our revenue remains the same, our non-discretionary expenditures continue to rise. We are faced with a \$1.5 million increase in contributions to the Virginia Retirement System, and a \$440,000 increase in health insurance costs for City employees. The City Schools are faced with another \$1.7 million in retirement costs and its recent budget request includes an increase of \$5.2 million over its FY 2004 request.

So, what does all of this mean to Lynchburg? It means that during the next few months, your elected representatives on City Council will need to make decisions that have the potential to make a profound impact on this city. We will be called upon to

make tough decisions regarding the level of services the City provides, tough decisions regarding taxes.

As we begin budget deliberations, one of the great unknowns is what will happen with state funding. In FY 2004, the City lost \$1.7 million in state funding, and it is as yet unclear as to what will happen with state funding during the next fiscal year.

You elected us to make decisions and you have our pledge that we will do our best to ensure that Lynchburg remains a great place to work, live and do business. This City has a Vision for the future. Each year during our annual retreat we reflect upon that vision to assure that it still holds true to the principles and values we have adopted. We will continue to use that Vision, and those principles and values, to make decisions that benefit this City.

Our decisions won't please everyone—some of you here tonight or those of you watching from home may be dissatisfied. But know that we make these decisions with the best interest of this City in mind.

Lynchburg's story is about more than just the "worst of times," and therefore, tonight we want to also tell you about our "best of times." Vice Mayor Dodson will speak with you about the many accomplishments of 2003. Vice Mayor.

6-11-0

Thank you, Mayor Hutcherson. When the Mayor began tonight, he said the citizens of Lynchburg can be proud of the many accomplishments made in 2003. Those accomplishments range from the resurrection of downtown Lynchburg, to the commercial development in the Wards Road corridor, to the outstanding success of the City's first traditional neighborhood development at Wyndhurst, to the renewal taking place in the new Rivermont Historic District.

Under the leadership of the Lynchburg Firefighters Association, we saw a new and improved Christmas parade, with a record number of participants. We also saw our crime rate drop to its lowest level since reporting began in 1975, thanks to the outstanding work of our Lynchburg Police Department and the support of our citizens.

On the economic front, I am proud to say that we are holding our own. In 2003, a number of our existing companies made a bold statement by expanding their current operations, bringing millions of reinvestment dollars and new jobs to Lynchburg. Companies such as Bausch & Lomb reinvested \$1.5 million into the expansion of its facility; Norcraft made a \$3 million investment and added 150 new jobs. Parker Hannifin added 50 new jobs in 2003 and Areva, formerly known as Framatome ANP, made a \$12 million investment and added an additional 200 jobs. We were pleased to recently learn that Areva will be making another sizable investment of up to \$7 million in 2004.

Existing companies willing to expand and reinvest in Lynchburg sends a strong message that "Lynchburg is open for business and business-friendly." In 2003, Waterford Furniture made the decision to relocate its business and chose to stay in Lynchburg. In a unique public-private partnership, the Industrial Development Authority sold the former ACS Building, across from the Kemper Street Train Station, to Waterford Furniture Makers. In turn, Waterford Furniture invested more than \$1.5 million into the building and equipment, bringing 30 jobs to an area of the city that seldom sees much job growth.

When you leave tonight, please stop by the display window in the hallway on this floor to see the Waterford Furniture on display as part of our "Made in Lynchburg" program. We are happy to have Colonel Maynard Austin of Waterford Furniture with us tonight. Colonel Austin.

Some of our success with the business community can be attributed to the City's Business Visitation program created by our Office of Economic Development. This program includes monthly visits to various existing companies by staff in Economic Development, the City Manager and a member of City Council. The Visitation Program gives members of City Council and the City Manager the opportunity to visit existing companies, learn what they do and listen to their concerns.

As we review the progress this community made last year, we cannot forget the strides made in the health care community. In 2003, Centra Health's Stroobants Heart Center at Lynchburg General Hospital was named for the second time as one of the

nation's 100 top cardiovascular hospitals. The hospital was also named one of the top orthopedic hospitals in the country.

As a major employer, Centra Health has consistently demonstrated its commitment to this community. It continues to grow and Centra Health officials have announced capital investments in 2004 of almost \$40 million.

In downtown Lynchburg, 2003 brought over \$15 million dollars in public and private investments in building renovations and construction, including the renovation of Monument Terrace, the Ninth Street corridor improvements, renovations at the downtown YMCA, the relocation of the Lynchburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority to Commerce Street, and the completion of the \$8.5 million renovation of the Human Services building. This alone brought another 170 employees downtown. With Riverviews, Lynch's Lofts and other living options now under development, people are once again considering downtown Lynchburg as an attractive place to live. There is a renewed sense of pride in downtown, with new companies and restaurants springing up every month. The new Federal Courthouse Building and Post Office is also under construction and represents another \$15 million investment in downtown.

In 2003, the City of Lynchburg gained accreditation from the National Trust for Historic Preservations' National Main Street Center, and was recognized by the Virginia Main Street Program as an official National Main Street Community. The City was also recognized by Virginia Main Street with several Milestone Awards for volunteer and economic investment. Thanks to Lynch's Landing's leadership, hundreds of volunteers worked to bring fun and entertainment to thousands of people during Friday Cheers and other downtown events. Lynch's Landing's Executive Director, Terri Proffit, and the chairman of Lynch's Landing's Board of Directors, David Heppner, are with us tonight. We thank you for your leadership. By the year 2005, over \$100 million in public and private funds will have been invested in the revitalization of downtown Lynchburg! As they say, If It's Happening, It's Happening Downtown."

We invite you to join us on Friday night, April 9th, for the grand re-opening of the newly renovated Lynchburg City Stadium and the season opener of the Lynchburg Hillcats. The stadium has always been important to this City. When it reopens, it will

be a modern facility with handicap access and up-to-date amenities. Having a championship baseball team like the Hillcats is a wonderful part of the City's quality of life—and with the re-opening of the renovated stadium, area baseball fans can enjoy America's favorite pastime in comfort.

Lynchburg residents can take pride in our public schools. Last year, twelve out of sixteen City Schools, including both high schools, received full accreditation status. Two schools met State standards, and two schools were provisionally accredited. We have no doubt that this time next year we will be able to say that all Lynchburg public schools have achieved full accreditation.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held last year at E.C. Glass High School, which was built over 50 years ago in 1953. This is the start of a \$28 million modernization construction project that will renovate a substantial portion of the school and add more than 43,000 square feet. This project is designed to meet the school's critical needs and includes a new auxiliary gymnasium, science lab addition, renovated kitchen and dining facilities; renovated classrooms and administrative support spaces; and the addition of state-of-the-art telecommunications, data systems and security system improvements. Construction is anticipated to be completed in the spring of 2006.

In scholastic sports, 2003 was the year of the coaches. Mike Bennett, who is head coach of the girls' and boys' indoor track teams at Heritage High School was named the 2003 Virginia Girls' Indoor Track Coach of the year. Chip Berry of E.C. Glass High School was named the 2003 Virginia Boys' Soccer Coach of the year, which is a great honor for him and E. C. Glass; and the biggest achievement was given to our head football coach at Heritage, Coach Chris Jones. We all thought winning the state championship in 2002 was the ultimate for Heritage, but when Coach Jones was named the 2003 National High School Coach of the Year for football, we knew we had a special coach in Lynchburg. There are thousands of high schools in our country that play football, and we have one of the best coaches in the country. Congratulations, Coach Jones.

In other developments, we fully expect the Monument Terrace improvements to be finished in late spring, hopefully in time for a dedication on Memorial Day. This community achievement will honor the ones who gave the utmost sacrifice so that we can live in peace. With the war in Iraq and the rebuilding of Afghanistan continuing for

an undetermined amount of time, we as a city must continue to remember our fellow citizens who serve our country and our flag.

When we talk about education and schools, we cannot forget that Lynchburg is indeed fortunate to have five institutions of higher learning in the area, as well as a number of business schools. Their presence contributes to the City's economy and quality of life because of their excellent academic opportunities and because of their cultural and educational offerings to the community at large.

Last year, Dr. Patty Hale, professor of nursing at Lynchburg College, was one of four national winners of U.S. Professors of the Year Awards from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Dr. Hale, who received the award for Outstanding Master's University and College Professor, is the first nursing professor in the 22-year history of the awards program to earn this honor. Dr. Hale is with us tonight.

Also, we can be proud of our continuing efforts in regional cooperation. Discussions are continuing between Campbell County and the City on creating a regional industrial park at the Lynchburg Regional Airport. We are also pleased that this past year the Region 2000 Regional Commission took the leading role in developing the Region 2000 Greenway and Blueway Plan. This plan will serve us well into the future in efforts to connect neighborhood to neighborhood and community to community through trails and waterways. Through regional efforts, Amherst County received a \$2 million grant to design and construct a walkway bridge to connect Percival's Island to Riveredge Park in Amherst.

Time does not allow me to tell you about each and every achievement in 2003. However, each achievement, both large and small, is a testament to the hard work and commitment of all of you, City employees and citizens alike.

To follow up on the Mayor's comments about the actions or inactions of our General Assembly, I would like to voice my appreciation for our Delegate, Preston Bryant, who was recently quoted as saying, "Frankly, I am tired of the State government stepping on local governments and treating them like they do not matter." Delegate Bryant has done an exceptional job during this Assembly in representing our

City. He understands that localities are an extension of the state. He comprehends the immense burden that previous Governors and previous General Assemblies have placed on older cities like Lynchburg. Delegate Bryant is a true leader who has represented our city extremely well and we wish him the very best.

In conclusion, a great deal has been accomplished over the last four to six years. However, everyone should realize that our city will face financial challenges in the next budget that will test our strength and our will. On March 4th, the budget submitted by the City Manager will become City Council's budget. As a group we will do our utmost to deliver the services to our citizens in the best possible manner. At the end of the process, when the budget is adopted, any credit or blame should be directed at our Council members and not at our City Manager.

City Council's commitment to maintaining Lynchburg's quality of life remains steadfast. Next year our list of achievements may be shorter, but regardless, we must do whatever is within our power to ensure that Lynchburg remains an excellent place to live, work and conduct business. We can only do that if we work together towards that common goal. Together we will persevere, together we will move forward, and together we will make our City of Lynchburg the best place to live in Virginia.

Thank you.

6-11-0

Thanks Bert.

As we close this portion of the State of the City Address I want to take a moment to recognize our outstanding City employees. The Virginia Municipal League presented the City with an Achievement Award in recognition of our Downtown Plan, and both our Comprehensive Plan and the Summit on Safe Neighborhoods received top communication awards from the City-County Communications and Marketing Association in 2003. Almost every department from the Assessor's Office to the Utilities Division has received some sort of professional recognition. This organization's most valuable asset is its employees. The numerous awards and recognitions speak to their high level of professionalism and dedication. They not only

provide the services that we as citizens need and depend on, but also volunteer their time, money and efforts to the betterment of this community.

Earlier this month, the United Way of Central Virginia presented the City with the Helping Hand Award. This award is presented to a company whose employees demonstrate a continuous commitment to the United Way and exceeds the organization's expectations in contributions, and also provides leadership to all in our community. This is the first time that a local government has achieved this level of recognition. Our employees are to be commended for increasing their giving over the past two years by 23 percent.

In 2003, the Lynchburg Fire and EMS Department and the Lynchburg Police Department joined Victory Christian Fellowship in blitz building Victory House. Victory House is a fully furnished home that provides shelter for victims of fire and other disasters.

There are many other examples of City employees assisting other charitable and civic organizations. They do it because this is their community and they are proud to be citizens here. We thank them tonight for their service and their commitment.

Last year we conducted our first Citizens Academy and held a graduation ceremony recognizing over 30 citizens. The Academy was formed to offer citizens the opportunity to learn more about their city government. It's been said that all government is local and our wish is for more citizens to become involved in making the decisions that affect this community. Many of the graduates have already volunteered their services to the City. Some of the graduates are with us tonight. Won't you please stand. Another Academy will be conducted this fall and I encourage you to participate in this educational opportunity.

Tonight we add the names of Georgia Barksdale, Rosel Schewel, George Nash, James Candler, Jim Mitchell, Anderson Duck, and Jim Whitaker to the Mayor's Award of Excellence recipients. One can do much. And one and one and one and one can move mountains. These individuals have moved mountains, each in their own way. Through each of them run the common desire to make this community better in some way. During the official ceremony immediately following the close of this speech we

will talk more about the work we are honoring them for but for now I ask them to please stand as we welcome them.

There are several past recipients with us as well. Won't you stand? Tonight we have spoken to you about the best of times and the worst of times, our challenges and our accomplishments. A city is not solely about its government or its awards and accolades. It is about its citizens.

Former president, Lyndon B. Johnson said, "The American city should be a collection of communities where every member has a right to belong. It should be a place where every man feels safe on his streets and in the house of his friends. It should be a place where each individual's dignity and self-respect is strengthened by the respect and affection of his neighbors. It should be a place where each of us can find the satisfaction and warmth which comes from being a member of the community of man. This is what man sought at the dawn of civilization. It is what we seek today."

Ladies and gentlemen, Lynchburg can be, no it must be, that community Johnson spoke of. By working together we can become that place and we will be that community. Thank you and God bless.

Mayor's Award of Excellence Ceremony

Tonight, we are recognizing seven individuals with the Mayor's Award of Excellence. Each has, in their own way, strived to have a positive impact on this community. Their success in life has little to do with fame or fortune but rather, has everything to do with their desire to serve this community and the people in it.

There is an old passage originally attributed to Ralph Waldo Emerson, that reads, "To laugh often and love much; to win the respect of intelligent persons and the affection of children, to earn the approbation of honest critics; to appreciate beauty; to give of one's self, to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to have played and laughed with enthusiasm and sung with exultation; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived—that is to have succeeded."

I believe those words eloquently define the success of this year's Mayor's Award of Excellence recipients.

Georgia Barksdale

Throughout her life Georgia Barksdale has worked tirelessly for children. When her own children were school-age, she was active in PTA and band boosters. With her husband Ed, she organized the Rivermont Boys Club. The Club was created to give young African American males an opportunity to participate in positive activities and as she says, "keep them off the streets."

She was active in the Civil Rights Movement and was involved in bringing the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. here to Lynchburg. This year marks the 50th anniversary of Brown v. the Board of Education, and I think it is only fitting that we recognize Georgia's role in the integration of Lynchburg City Schools. Her daughter, Dr. Linda Woodruff became one of the first African American students to attend E.C. Glass High School.

Georgia was also the driving force behind Lest We Forget, a program held in commemoration of the Civil Rights Movement in Lynchburg. Most recently she has given countless hours in fund raising for the College Hill Neighborhood School. Her love for young people is evident in all she does. Tonight this community thanks her for her commitment and her hard work. Ladies and Gentlemen, Georgia Barksdale.

James Candler

James Candler is a man who believes in community building and he puts his beliefs into practice. Jim is a member of the board of the Salvation Army, STEP with Links, Amazement Square and the Lynchburg City Schools Education Foundation. He is a member of the advisory board of directors of BB&T Lynchburg (formerly First Federal Savings Bank) and member of the board of directors of BB&T of Virginia (formerly One Valley Bancorp, Inc.).

He served on the Lynchburg City School Board for nine years, with five years as chairman, and was a member of the board of the Commonwealth of Virginia Public School Authority. He has also served on the Commonwealth Transportation Board and in his spare time he manages to sell a little oil at Candlers Oil.

Jim has won many awards, including the Lynchburg Bar Association's Liberty Bell Award, the Greater Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce's Pro Opera Civica Award, a citation from the Lynchburg Chapter, National Conference of Christians and Jews and the Hunton YMCA Community Service Award. And tonight it is my honor to present him with the Mayor's Award of Excellence. Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr. Jim Candler.

A. Anderson Duck

You might not be aware of this, but I'm not the only mayor in Lynchburg. Tonight we recognize someone that we lovingly like to call the Mayor of Fairview Heights—Mr. A. Anderson Duck. Throughout the years he has served on a number of committees, including four three-year terms on the Neighborhood Advisory Committee and the Keep Lynchburg Beautiful Committee and nine years as a member of the Community Development Block Grant allocation committee. He has been credited with forming the Fairview Heights Neighborhood Watch and has served ten terms as its president. He is currently serving as vice-president.

Anderson worked diligently to get a recreation center in Fairview Heights and served as an advisor to the Parks and Recreation Department when the Center was remodeled.

He is an advocate for the Fairview Heights neighborhood and for the City at large—and he has no trouble voicing his concerns when he thinks City Council has made a wrong decision and in thanking us when he believes we got it right.

We are pleased to add his name to the list of Mayor's Award of Excellence recipients. Ladies and Gentlemen, Anderson Duck.

Rosel Schewel

It is hard to describe our next recipient in just a few words. Rosel Schewel is known throughout this community as someone that takes volunteerism and community activism very seriously. She is an educator, an advocate, and a philanthropist. An active, involved, volunteer in the Lynchburg community, she is one of the founders of the Lynchburg League of Women Voters, a long time member of the Lynchburg College Board of Trustees, Life member of the Friends of the Library, serves on the Board of

Trustees for the Lynchburg City Schools' Education Foundation, Inc., the Legacy Museum's Advisory Committee, and the list goes on and on.

Along with her husband Elliot, she established an endowment to support a lecture series from the standpoint of education or human development.

We honor her tonight for her lifelong commitment to this community and to the betterment of all people. Ladies and gentlemen, Rosel Schewel.

Jim Mitchell

Our next recipient is not a Lynchburg resident but he is a Lynchburg businessman. When he's not "tackling any deal!" Jim Mitchell believes in giving back to the community as evidenced by his ten-year involvement with the Children's Miracle Network.

In addition to his work with CMN, Jim has donated time and money to Habitat for Humanity and numerous other organizations.

He believes in giving back to the community and we thank him for his giving nature. Ladies and gentlemen, Jim Mitchell.

George Nash

There's no way to talk about Lynchburg Little League without mentioning our next recipient, George Nash. This year marks George's 28th year of volunteer service to Lynchburg Little League. During those 28 years he has managed over 500 children and touched the lives of many more.

During baseball season you'll find George at Miller Park from early afternoon until late evening opening concession stands, preparing fields, and coaching games. He works closely with the City's Department of Parks and Recreation in his capacity as chairman of Lynchburg Little League's Building and Grounds committee and he oversees maintenance and improvement of the Miller Park fields.

His teams have won championships in 1992, 1994, 2002, and 2003. When it's not baseball season you will find him at E.C. Glass sporting events. He believes that

participating in sports provides young people with important skills that are necessary throughout life. Ladies and Gentlemen, George Nash.

James Whitaker

When our last honoree served as Mayor of this city he was quoted as saying, "I strongly believe that trying to govern a city without having a vision is like trying to take a road trip without a map. If you are lucky you may eventually get there, but you may just miss your destination completely."

Former Mayor Jim Whitaker played a vital role in crafting the City's Vision for Lynchburg 2020—A New Century Community." When the vision work was completed, Jim believed it to be more than just nice words. He made his decisions on City Council using the Vision as a compass. He was a believer.

Jim was also the impetus behind creating the City's first comprehensive code enforcement program that included the formation of the Code Enforcement Task Force and the Citizens First Customer Service Center, he delivered the first State of the City Address and established regular office hours for the Mayor.

After leaving office, Jim continued to serve the community and is now the chaplain for the Lynchburg Police Department. He continues to believe in the vision for Lynchburg 2020 and his life is clearly one of commitment to the Lynchburg community. Ladies and gentlemen, Jim Whitaker.

Won't you join me in applauding all of tonight's recipients?

Please join us in the Galleria for the reception, "A Taste of Downtown." Twelve downtown restaurants are participating this year and I encourage you to visit each one. We also want to thank Bill Jamerson, who is with us tonight. He was kind enough to stop the construction going on in the Galleria to allow us to use it for the reception anyway. We are happy to have him here and we look forward to seeing the "new" Galleria.

2004 Mayor's Award of Excellence

Georgia Barksdale

James K. Candler

A. Anderson Duck

James Mitchell

George Nash

Rosel Schewel

James S. Whitaker

Former Recipients of the Mayor's Award of Excellence

February 24, 2003

Ronald Dolan

Stuart C. Fauber

Thomas J. Gerdy

Delia Hooks

Laura Munson

Becky Porter

Dr. James H. Taylor

February 25, 2002

Mary B. Adams

Rev. Bev Cosby (Posthumously)

Edwin R. Page

Mary H. Payne

Marc A. Schewel

Lawrence W. Simpson, Jr.

J.F. Taylor, Jr.

Anne R. Wesley

February 26, 2001

Dr. Jerry L. Falwell

Rodger W. Fauber

Josephine (Jiggie) Holt

Gail B. Jackson

Dr. William F. Quillian, Ph.D.

Irma W. Seiferth

Harry Smith, Jr.

Former Recipients of the Mayor's Award of Excellence

February 28, 2000

Calvin Falwell

Yvonne T. Ferguson

Joan MacCallum

Rev. Herbert Moore

Roland K. Peters

Elliot S. Schewel

Chauncey Spencer

February 22, 1999

Rev. Nathan C. Brooks, III

Charles F. Church

Dr. Peter W. Houck

Rev. Ronald A. Gills, Sr.

Rev. Haywood Robinson, Jr.

Jane White